have to leave some part of the answer for supplementary questions. Particularly, I have great regard for my friend, Mr. Shah. These SILs are freely tradeable. They can be bought and sold. Where is the illegality in freely trading any SIL? There can be no illegality or irregularity in a freely tradeable instrument.

The other part of the question is whether it is true that it is in connivance with some officials of the Ministry that these alleged irregularities take place. As I said, when SILs are freely tradeable, there is no scope for any connivance either. Now, does the SIL list get enlarged? I believe that there must be greater transparency and greater opnness about adding items to the shopping list. These are not matters of secret, when we add a couple of items to the shopping list. If we add some items to the shopping list now, it will be known tomorrow, if not today. If we add some items to the shopping list, it may not be know today, but it will be known by the end of the month. I do not think there is any great advantage if someone knows it a few hours earlier or a few hours later. The people who hold SILs are established exporters. And I am sure that my hon. friend knows what established exporters are.

They will not pass the SIL licences unless there is an advantage in selling a SIL licence on a particular day. There is absolutely no truth that there is any irregularity in the trade of SIL licences. These are freely tradable and there is no irregularity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. Today we have almost completed the questions.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

Hospitals for Beddi Workers in Andhra Pradesh

*181. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are only three hospitals for beedi workers all over the country;

(b) where are these three hospitals located;

(c) whether Government will construct a separate hospital in Andhra Pradesh for beedi workers;

(d) whether it is a fact that Labour Ministry is paying less attention to welfare of beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) steps proposed to extend welfare schemes and insurance to beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (e) At present there are three hospitals located in Gursahaiganj (UP), Karma (Bihar) and Mysore (Karnataka) for the benefit of Beedi workers.

It has been decided to set up a 50-Bedded hospital by E.S.I.C, at Nizamabad which has a maximum concentration of beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh.

Labour Ministry does pay a high degree of attention for the welfare of beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh.

Various facilities under the welfare schemes for beedi workers relating to housing, health, education, recreation and Group Insurance are already being extended to beedi workers in all the States including in Andhra Pradesh.